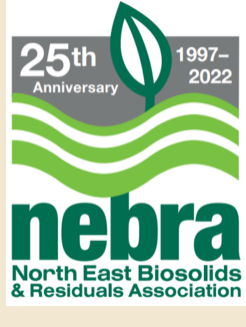




Distilled biosolids and residuals news from New England and Eastern Canada

January 21, 2022



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Preview of NEWEA Annual Conference – NEBRA Connections

The New England Water Environment Association is hosting its [2022 annual conference](#) and exhibit in person again at the Boston Marriott Copley Place, Boston, Massachusetts, January 23rd through the 26th. As a long-time collaborator with NEWEA, the North East Biosolids & Residuals Association (NEBRA) has lots of connections and NEBRA members contributing to the exchange of information at this event. This year's theme is Navigating the Tides: Fostering Diversity and Leading Change. This article previews of some of the highlights. Check out the NEBRA booth and our "reverse pitch" to innovators as part of the Innovation Pavilion.

[Read more...](#)

Biosolids Coalition Formally Responds to “Sludge in the Garden” Report



On January 10th, Greg Kester, the Director of Renewable Resources Programs for the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), sent an email to the acting director at the Sierra Club headquarters forwarding a scientific [rebuttal](#) to the report “Sludge in the Garden: Toxic PFAS in Home Fertilizers Made from Sewage Sludge” issued back in May. As reported by *NEBRAMail* in June (see [News](#)), the Sierra Club report contained some inaccuracies and misleading statements – while acknowledging the difficult task of managing these materials. NEBRA got involved and spoke to several local reporters who picked up the story back in May.

[Read more](#)

Major N.E. Wastewater Utilities Team Up on Biosolids Management Study

There is limited biosolids processing and/or disposal capacity in the northeast. Recognizing this trend, three large regional utilities, Narragansett Bay Commission, Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, and Upper Blackstone Clean Water (Project Partners), banded together and issued a request for proposals/qualifications (RFP/Q) to study the feasibility of a regional biosolids processing. The RFP/Q acknowledges the capacity issues in the region when it comes to managing wastewater solids as a driver for the project.

[Read more](#)

PBS Viewpoint Special Feature on Biosolids

The Water Environment Federation has secured a special feature spot with PBS to present a brief (3-5 minutes) biosolids story segment as part of their Viewpoint program **hosted by Dennis Quaid**. Given the viewing audience of the general public, the segment will focus on conveying the biosolids journey rather than a specific organization or company. The story will follow ordinary people doing extraordinary things every day (for example, plant operators, farmers, community gardeners, scientists). Particular attention will be focused on raising awareness around biosolids production, product stewardship, and the role that biosolids play in mitigating climate change.

[Read more](#)

En Bref -- In Brief

EPA Offering Grants for Improving Lagoon Systems in Small Communities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the availability of grants for small communities (less than 10,000) with lagoon wastewater treatment systems needing infrastructure or process modifications to improve effluent quality for water utilities. The grant funding comes from EPA's [Innovative Water Technology Grant Program](#) and is available to public water utilities, university researchers and other non-profit research institutes or foundations. There is an informational [webinar](#) scheduled for February 3rd. The deadline to apply for the grant is **March 7**.

Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Calls for Symposium Presentations

The Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association will be hosting its annual Summer Technical Symposium, July 20th and 21st. This year's theme is “Biosolids Quality: New Source Control, Upgraded Treatment and New Thermal Processes”. MABA has issued a Call for Presentation and is seeking presentations on a range of topics. For more information, go to [MABA 2022 Call for Presentations](#). Or email your abstract (approximately 500 words) name, affiliation, and short bio to [Howard Matteson](#), Symposium Chair, by February 11, 2022.

NEBRA Supports W4170 in Comments on Draft Soil Carbon Amendment Code

In December, members of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s multistate research group ([W4170 Beneficial Use of Residuals to Improve Soil Health and Protect Public, and Ecosystem Health](#)) submitted a [letter](#) to USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) about their program to encourage farmers to use composts and biochar as tools to restore soil health and increase soil carbon reserves. The group is concerned that municipal biosolids are excluded from NRCS's program and singled out as not appropriate amendments for this goal. The W4170 group has been a vital source of research on the safety and benefits associated with land application of municipal biosolids and other residuals-based amendments for about five decades, and Dr. Sally Brown drafted the letter to recommend biosolids inclusion as scientifically sound. NEBRA has written to a [letter](#) of support for W4170's position as well.

Free COVID Samplers for Small Wastewater Utilities! Become part of the Monitoring Network!

The Water Environment Federation (WEF), with funding through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is inviting **small** utilities to apply to receive an automatic wastewater sampler and technical assistance to participate in wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) or disease surveillance. As previously reported in *NEBRAMail* ([COVID WBE Developments — NEBRA \(nebiosolids.org\)](#)), WBE has emerged as a tool for understanding COVID-19 infection trends. [Learn more here](#), see the [program invitation](#) for more information and instructions on how to submit an application and [apply online](#) by January 31, 2022.

CHECK IT OUT!!

60 Minutes Investigates -- featuring Catherine Coleman Flowers' fight to expose "[America's Dirty Secret](#)" (lack of wastewater infrastructure)

Positive GreenBiz story about [Chicago biosolids](#) recycling program

Recent research: Getting a [solid soil response to biosolids](#) application (phys.org)

Mural by transwomen paints Mumbai's Love Grove sewage plant site in new light, from [Cities News](#), [The Indian Express](#)

Oldie but Goodie: [Report](#) of the royal commission on London sewage in Van Nordstrand's Engineering Magazine, from April 1st, 1885!

["The road to Easy Street goes through the sewer"](#) -- and other classic John Madden quotes.



Upcoming Events

January 26: EPA [training](#) for 2021 Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Annual Reports (electronic reports due by **February 22**)

January 23 - 26: New England Water Environment Association's [Annual Conference](#) & Exhibit (Boston, MA)

January 24 - 27: [Compost 2022](#) (U.S. Composting Council)

January 28: NEBRA Lunch & Learn about HyBrTec® Biosolid-to-Hydrogen process

February 1: Maine Water Utilities Association's 96th annual [conference and tradeshow](#) (Augusta, ME)

February 25: NEBRA Lunch & Learn about ORCHID, a system for managing biosolids

March 6-9: 37th Annual [WaterReuse Symposium](#) (San Antonio, Texas)

March 9: New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association's Legislative Breakfast

For a complete listing of Events, go to www.nebiosolids.org/events.

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